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a second functional printed circuit board located in a second portion of the network device, wherein the second functional printed circuit board is reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the first functional printed circuit board;
a first mid-plane connected to the first functional printed circuit board;
a second mid-plane connected to the second functional printed circuit board; and
a switch fabric card connected to both the first and second mid-planes.

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5. (Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising:
a third functional printed circuit board located in the first portion of the network device
and connected to the first mid-plane; and
a fourth functional printed circuit board located in the second portion of the network device
and connected to the second mid-plane, wherein the third functional printed circuit board is reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the fourth functional printed circuit board.

6. (Amended) The network device of claim 5[4], wherein the first and second functional printed circuit boards comprise forwarding cards and the third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.

7. (Amended) The network device of claim 5[4], wherein the first, second, third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise forwarding cards.

8. (Amended) The network device of claim 5[4], wherein the first, second, third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.

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12. (Amended) A network device, comprising:

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a first plurality of functional printed circuit boards located in a first portion of the network device; [and]

a second plurality of functional printed circuit boards located in a second portion of the network device, wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards are reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the first plurality of function printed circuit boards

a first mid-plane connected to the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards;

a second mid-plane connected to the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards; and

a switch fabric card connected to both the first and second mid-planes.

13. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[17], wherein the first portion comprises a top portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom portion of the network device.

14. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[17], wherein the first portion comprises a top, front portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom, front portion of the network device.

15. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[17], wherein the first portion comprises a top, back portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom, back portion of the network device.

16. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[17], wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a first plurality of forwarding cards and

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wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a second plurality of forwarding cards.

17. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[17], wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a first plurality of cross-connection cards and wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a second plurality of cross-connection cards.

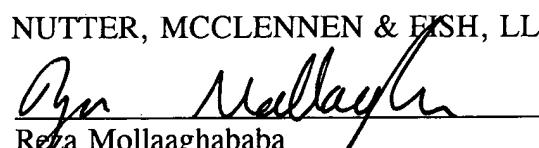
18. (Amended) The network device of claim 12[22], wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards further includes a first plurality of cross-connection cards and wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards further includes a second plurality of cross-connection cards.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the above amended claims be added to the application prior to its examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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